

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN



2008

ANNUAL REPORT

**EXTENDED HEALTH CARE PLAN
FOR CERTAIN OTHER RETIRED EMPLOYEES**

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Letters of Transmittal



His Honour, The Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Bamhart
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I have the honour to transmit herewith the seventh Annual Report of the
Extended Health Care Plan For Certain Other Retired Employees for the year
ending December 31, 2008.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rod Gantefer".

Rod Gantefer
Minister of Finance

The Honourable Rod Gantefer
Minister of Finance

Sir:

On behalf of the Public Employees Benefits Agency, I have the honour to
transmit herewith the seventh Annual Report of the Extended Health Care
Plan For Certain Other Retired Employees for the year ending
December 31, 2008.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brian Smith".

Brian Smith
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Employees Benefits Agency

Extended Health Care Plan for Certain Other Retired Employees

Introduction

The Extended Health Care Plan For Certain Other Retired Employees was established on January 15, 2002:

The Fund is used to account for the transactions of the Extended Health Care Plan For Certain Other Retired Employees which provides health care benefits to certain out-of-scope retired employees.

As at December 31, 2008, participation in the Plan has been approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for out-of-scope retired employees of the Government of Saskatchewan as defined under *The Public Service Act*.

Advisory Committee Members

Brian Smith
Saskatchewan Finance (PEBA)

Don Zerr
Public Service Commission

Kevin Wilson
Saskatchewan Health

Will Loewen
Public Service Commission

Participating Employers

The following employers participate in the Extended Health Care Plan for Certain Other Retired Employees:

Board of Arbitration under *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act* (The)
Chief Electoral Officer (Office of the)
Children's Advocate (Office of the)
Farm Land Security Board
Horned Cattle Fund
Information and Privacy Commissioner (Office of the)
Milk Control Board

Ombudsman (Office of the)
The Government of Saskatchewan with respect to members of the Public Service of Saskatchewan as defined under *The Public Service Act, 1998*
Saskatchewan Archives Board
Saskatchewan Municipal Board

Administration

The Public Employees Benefits Agency has established a fund pursuant to *The Financial Administration Act, 1993* for the purpose of providing benefits under the Plan. An Advisory Committee is responsible for the management and investment of the Fund. The Advisory Committee consists of 4 representatives as nominated by the Saskatchewan Public Service Commission and appointed by Minister's Order.

The Plan pays a premium subsidy to Group Medical Services on behalf of PS/GE SGEU retirees. The Plan's risk is limited to the payment of the monthly premium subsidy as follows under the two year contract effective January 1, 2008:

Single	\$14.00	per month
Couple	\$28.00	per month
Family	\$35.00	per month

Funding

For the period January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002, the General Revenue Fund (GRF), on behalf of the Plan, paid premium subsidies to Group Medical Services. The amount paid from the General Revenue Fund was recorded as due to GRF and was repayable with interest.

This amount was repaid in 2003. Effective July 1, 2003 funding for the Plan became employer paid at a rate of .25% of straight time annual payroll.

Benefits

A retiree is eligible for benefits immediately following retirement. Claims are paid on behalf of all family members and covers certain health and vision care benefits.

Management's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

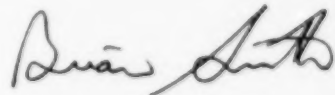
As members of management of the Extended Health Care Plan For Certain Other Retired Employees, we are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the following financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are fully and fairly disclosed in the financial statements.

We believe the Extended Health Care Plan For Certain Other Retired Employees has a system of internal control adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the accounts are faithfully and properly kept to permit the preparation of accurate financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

An Advisory Committee, as nominated by the Public Service Commission and appointed by Minister's Order, has been established and is responsible for reviewing the ongoing operations of the Plan.

We enclose the financial statements of the Extended Health Care Plan For Certain Other Retired Employees for the year ended December 31, 2008 and the Provincial Auditor's report on these financial statements.



Brian Smith
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Employees Benefits Agency



Perry Bahr
Director, Benefit Programs
Public Employees Benefits Agency



Kathy Deck
Director, Financial Services
Public Employees Benefits Agency

Regina, Saskatchewan
February 18, 2009

Extended Health Care Plan For Certain Other Retired Employees

Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2008

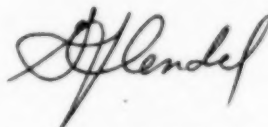
Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Extended Health Care Plan for Certain Other Retired Employees as at December 31, 2008 and the statements of operations and net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended. The Plan's management is responsible for preparing these financial statements for Treasury Board's approval. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Plan as at December 31, 2008 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



Fred Wendel, CMA, CA
Provincial Auditor

Regina, Saskatchewan
February 18, 2009

**Extended Health Care Plan For Certain Other
Retired Employees
Statement of Financial Position**

Statement 1

As At December 31

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
ASSETS		
Due from General Revenue Fund (Note 3)	\$ 101,981	\$ 34,962
Short-term investments (Note 4)	1,661,091	1,348,562
Employer contributions receivable	35,487	33,805
	<u>1,798,559</u>	<u>1,417,349</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 6)	199	1,913
Net assets (Statement 2)	<u>\$1,798,360</u>	<u>\$1,415,436</u>

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

**Extended Health Care Plan For Certain Other
Retired Employees
Statement of Operations and Net Assets**

Statement 2

For The Year Ended December 31

	2008		2007
	Budget (Note 7)	Actual	Actual
REVENUES			
Employer contributions (Note 1)	\$405,000	\$412,371	\$ 390,343
Interest income (Notes 3 & 4)	67,050	50,845	51,797
	<u>472,050</u>	<u>463,216</u>	<u>442,140</u>
EXPENSES			
Insurance premium subsidy (Note 1)	59,000	64,349	41,640
Administration (Note 6)	23,323	15,943	13,015
	<u>82,323</u>	<u>80,292</u>	<u>54,655</u>
Surplus for the year	389,727	382,924	387,485
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,415,436</u>	<u>1,415,436</u>	<u>1,027,951</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR (Statement 1)	<u>\$1,805,163</u>	<u>1,798,360</u>	<u>\$1,415,436</u>

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

**Extended Health Care Plan For Certain Other
Retired Employees
Statement of Cash Flows**

Statement 3

For The Year Ended December 31

	2008	2007
Cash flows from (used in) operating activities:		
Employer contributions received	\$410,690	\$ 386,727
Interest income received	51,194	49,097
Insurance premium subsidies paid	(64,349)	(41,640)
Administration expenses paid	(17,657)	(12,675)
Cash flows from operating activities	379,878	381,509
Cash flows from (used in) investing activities:		
Purchase of investments	(6,143,906)	(4,711,983)
Proceeds from disposal of investments	5,831,027	4,312,702
Cash flows used in investing activities	(312,879)	(399,281)
Net increase (decrease) in due from General Revenue Fund	66,999	(17,772)
DUE FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND, BEGINNING OF YEAR	34,982	52,754
DUE FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND, END OF YEAR	\$ 101,981	\$ 34,982

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Extended Health Care Plan For Certain Other Retired Employees Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

1. Description of the Plan

The Extended Health Care Plan for Certain Other Retired Employees (Plan) was established on January 15, 2002 pursuant to subsection 64(2) of *The Financial Administration Act, 1993*. The Plan provides extended health care benefits to eligible out-of-scope retired employees of the Government of Saskatchewan.

The Government through the Minister of Finance has entered into an agreement with an insurance company to provide eligible retirees with extended health coverage. The retirees are responsible to pay the insurance company the premiums set out in the agreement less a premium subsidy which is paid by the Plan. The Plan's risk is limited to the payment of a monthly premium subsidy to the insurance company for eligible retirees. The monthly premium subsidy for the year was \$14.00 for a single policy, \$28.00 for a couple policy and \$35.00 for a family policy.

The Plan is funded by employers, whose participation in the Plan has been approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Funding for the Plan commenced July 1, 2003. The Minister of Finance approved a contribution rate of 0.25% of the regular pay of current out-of-scope employees.

The Public Employees Benefits Agency (PEBA) manages the Plan under direction from the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is made up of employers' representatives appointed by Minister's Order.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

Pursuant to standards established by the Public Sector Accounting Board, the Plan is classified as an other government organization. These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles applicable to for-profit entities. The following accounting policies are considered significant.

a) Change in Accounting Policies

Effective January 1, 2008, three new presentation and disclosure standards were adopted: Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) Handbook Section 1535, *Capital Disclosures* (Section 1535); Handbook Section 3862, *Financial Instruments - Disclosures* (Section 3862); and Handbook Section 3863, *Financial Instruments - Presentation* (Section 3863).

Section 1535 requires the disclosure of both qualitative and quantitative information that enables users of financial statements to evaluate the entity's objectives, policies and processes for managing capital. As this standard only addressed disclosure requirements, there is no change in Net assets.

Section 3862 and 3863 replaced Handbook section 3861, *Financial Instruments - Disclosure and Presentation*. The new disclosure standards increase the disclosures related to financial instruments and the nature, extent and management of the Plan's risks arising from financial instruments. The presentation standards carry forward unchanged from the former presentation requirements. As these standards only address disclosure and presentation requirements, there is no impact on the Plan's net assets.

b) **Employer Contributions**

Employers are billed premiums at the end of each month. Premiums are recognized as revenue when due.

c) **Interest Revenue**

Interest is recognized as income when earned.

d) **Financial Instruments**

Held for trading financial assets and liabilities are measured at fair value. Changes in the fair value are recognized in the Statement of Operations and Net Assets. For due from General Revenue Fund and short-term investments, fair value is determined as cost plus accrued income, which approximates market value. Loans and receivables and other financial liabilities are measured at amortized cost. Due to their short-term nature, the amortized cost of these instruments approximates their fair value.

e) **Future Accounting Policy Changes**

The Accounting Standards Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants has issued an exposure draft proposing to adopt International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) effective January 1, 2011. At that time, the Plan will effectively cease to use Canadian GAAP and will adopt IFRS. The Plan is monitoring the transition to IFRS and is assessing the impact that the adoption of IFRS will have on its financial statements.

3. Due from General Revenue Fund

The Plan's bank account is included in the Consolidated Offset Bank Concentration arrangement for the Government of Saskatchewan. The Plan's earned interest is calculated and paid by the General Revenue Fund on a quarterly basis into the Plan's bank account using the Government's thirty day borrowing rate, and the Plan's average daily bank account balance. The Government's average thirty day borrowing rate in 2008 was 2.57% (2007 – 4.26%).

4. Short-Term Investments

Short-term investments are comprised of T-Bills, notes and commercial paper with effective interest rates of 1.5% to 3.2% (2007 – 3.9% to 4.8%) and an average remaining term to maturity of 36 days (2007 – 49 days). Investments are purchased through the Treasury and Debt Management Branch of the Ministry of Finance and are subject to the Ministry's investment guidelines. The guidelines require that investments must meet a minimum investment standard of "R-1" rating, as rated by a recognized credit rating service.

5. Financial Risk Management

The nature of the Plan's operations result in a statement of financial position that consists primarily of financial instruments. The risks that arise are credit risk, market risk (consisting of interest rate risk) and liquidity risk.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party does not pay funds owed to another party. The Plan's credit risk arises primarily from the following distinct sources:

	2008	2007
Due from General Revenue Fund	\$ 101,981	\$ 34,982
Short-term investments	1,661,091	1,348,562
Employer contributions receivable	35,487	33,805

The maximum credit risk to which the Plan is exposed is limited to the carrying value of the financial assets summarized above.

The credit risk for short-term investments is managed through a policy that requires investments to meet minimum investment standards as determined by a recognized credit rating agency.

The Plan is exposed to minimal credit risk from the potential non-payment of employer contributions as these are receivables from government agencies and were collected shortly after year end.

Market risk

Market risk represents the potential for loss from changes in the value of financial instruments. Values can be affected by changes in interest rates. The Plan is exposed to changes in interest rates on its short-term investments.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Plan is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Plan manages this risk by investing in financial assets with a very short-term to maturity.

6. Related Party Transactions

Included in these financial statements are transactions with various Saskatchewan Crown corporations, ministries, agencies, boards and commissions related to the Plan by virtue of common control or significant influence by the Government of Saskatchewan (collectively referred to as "related parties"). Related party transactions with the Plan are in the normal course of operations and are recorded at the agreed upon exchange amounts charged by these organizations.

All employer contributions and employer contributions receivable are from related parties. Also, in 2008, PEBA charged the Plan \$15,943 (2007 – \$13,015) for administration expenses. Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities is \$199 (2007 – \$1,913) due to PEBA.

Other transactions with related parties and amounts due to/from them are described separately in the financial statements and notes thereto.

7. Budget

PEBA prepares the budget for approval by the Advisory Committee.



